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November 9, 2009

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

The Committee on Finance convened on November 9, 2009, with Chairman Maryann Heuston presiding and Committee Members Aldermen Bruce Desmond, John Connolly, Walter Pero and William White also present and voting. Also present were Administrative Assistant Matt Dias, Anne Thomas, Michael Lambert, Rob May, Gerry Boyle, Keith Criag and Arn Franzen from the Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development, Greg Jenkins from the Arts Council, Stan Koty and Ginger Barrett from the DPW, Deputy Police Chief Michael Cabral, Health Director Pauline Renault-Caragianes, Chief Financial Officer Ed Bean, Chief Fire Engineer Kevin Kelleher, Purchasing Director Rositha Durham, City Solicitor John Gannon and David Dahlbaca.

188312: appropriation of \$625,000 to purchase a Fire Dept. Rescue Truck

Chief Kelleher told the committee that the funds would be used to purchase a new pump truck to replace one that has been in service since 1988.

188316: appropriation of \$89,990 for the I-93 Interchange Study federal earmark

Mr. Lambert told the members that a study needs to be initiated for the interchange and that the funds would be used to pay the city's portion of the cost. The study will determine what traffic improvements can be made and it will then be sent back to the Federal Government for comment and study. An RFP will be sent out and it is expected that the study will take 18 months to complete. Alderman Pero inquired about Temple Road and Mr. Lambert assured him that Temple Road would not be eliminated and also that there would be no cut through. Alderman Connolly asked that the community and the Board of Aldermen have input on the matter.

Alderman Connolly's motion *that the Director of Transportation provide quarterly updates to the Committee on Finance relative to the status of the I-93 Interchange Study*, was approved.

188318: appropriation of \$65,000 to fund a study of streetscape infrastructure in Davis Sq.

Mr. May appeared before the committee and explained how the funds would be used.

188321: appropriation of \$35,980 to purchase a prisoner transport vehicle for the Police Dept.

188322: appropriation of \$32,500 to purchase a special services vehicle for the Police Dept.

188323: appropriation of \$26,295 to purchase an animal control vehicle for the Police Dept.

Deputy Chief Cabral spoke about the need for these vehicles and also told the members that funding for Community Policing will be cut on December 3rd of this year and that if the funds are not restored, jobs will be cut.

188326: expending a grant of \$44,532.54 to implement H1N1 vaccine clinics.

Ms. Renault-Caragianes told the committee that this grant is funded through the Department of Public Health and the Center for Disease Control.

188308: acquisition of land needed for public infrastructure improvements

188311: draft IDAA in conjunction with the I-Cubed Assembly on the Mystic Project.

188350: easements, agreement and taking of a parcel that will be part of Assembly Sq. Dr.

Ms. Thomas explained the reasons for these items that all have to do with the development of Assembly Square.

188332: MA School Building Authority assistance for the High School

188333: MA School Building Authority assistance for the Winter Hill Community School.

188334: MA School Building Authority assistance for the Brown School.

Mr. Boyle told the members that the city has to submit a letter of interest to apply for this state funding. This is the first step for the Mayor, the Board of Aldermen and the School Committee to concur on beginning the process.

188314: appropriation of \$171,810 to purchase 6 vehicles for the Police Dept.

188315: appropriation of \$109,075 to purchase 5 vehicles for the Police Dept.

188317: appropriation of \$71,895 to purchase 3 hybrid vehicles for the Fire Dept.

188319: appropriation of \$44,800 to purchase a command vehicle for the Fire Dept.

188320: appropriation of \$36,641 to purchase a command vehicle for the Fire Dept.

188242: \$26,750 grant for the Arts Council's grant program.

188243: \$9,148.50 grant for city employees to become OSHA certified trainers.

188244: \$7,500 for the Arts Council's Books of Hope program.

188245: \$4,900 grant for the Arts Council's operational costs.

188328: expending a grant of \$8,500 to support the city's All America City designation.

188329: expending a grant of \$4,000 for research on the retail advertising of tobacco products.

The committee discussed renting public spaces as a means of generating revenue and Alderman Pero asked that the communication be amended to include the Winter Hill area. OSPCD will revisit the issue and attempt to find two spots in Winter Hill or Ten Hills.

The committee discussed various items dealing with trash collection in the city. Ms. Durham and Ms. Barrett told the members that the city went out to bid for a new contract last year and that the responses were poor. A task force was set up and the RFP's from other cities were examined. The city received responses from the following 4 companies: Capital, Waste Management, Russell Disposal and Sunrise Scavenger. Each company was interviewed and given the same amount of time to state why they should be awarded the contract. (Chairman Heuston requested a copy of the questions asked of each of the respondents.) The consensus of opinion was that the best candidate was Russell Disposal and that their unit price for solid waste and hauling was the lowest. Ms. Barrett told the members that there is an option year left on the current contract with Russell Disposal and that the city could save \$360,000 by exercising it. Additionally, the city would like to enter into a five year contract with Russell Disposal and estimates that the city would realize over \$1 million in savings by taking this action. The city has asked that Russell Disposal submit information regarding their equipment stipulating that none of the equipment is over 5 years old.

The meeting was recessed at 8:30 PM.

The committee discussed matters before it and took action on the following 23 items:

188178: Communication from Mayor - Requesting approval of the temporary and permanent easements described in the attached Law Dept. memo, for construction in the Assembly Sq. area by Federal Realty Investment Trust and Vanasse Hangen Brustlin.

RECOMMENDATION: Should be placed on file

VOTE: Unanimous, 5 - 0 in favor

188207: Communication from Mayor - Requesting approval of a Letter of Agreement with Federal Realty Investment Trust and Ikea Property Inc., providing for a rescission of the easements granted to the City in connection with the construction of Assembly Sq. Drive and Ikea Way.

RECOMMENDATION: Should be placed on file

VOTE: Unanimous, 5 - 0 in favor

188240: Communication from Mayor - Requesting approval of items for the infrastructure investment incentive (I-Cubed) program for the Assembly on the Mystic Development project, including 1) the Economic Development Proposal, 2) the creation and funding of a Municipal Liquidity Reserve for each Assessment Parcel, and 3) the acquisition or acceptance of any property interests in the public infrastructure improvements to be conveyed to the City upon completion.

RECOMMENDATION: Should be placed on file

VOTE: Unanimous, 5 - 0 in favor

188242: Communication from Mayor - Requesting acceptance of a \$26,750 grant from the Mass. Cultural Council, for the Arts Council's grant program.

RECOMMENDATION: Should be approved

VOTE: Unanimous, 5 - 0 in favor

188243: Communication from Mayor - Requesting acceptance of a \$9,148.50 grant from the Mass. Dept. of Industrial Accidents Office of Safety, for city employees to become OSHA certified trainers.

RECOMMENDATION: Should be approved

VOTE: Unanimous, 5 - 0 in favor

188244: Communication from Mayor - Requesting acceptance of a \$7,500 grant from the Mass. Cultural Council, for the Arts Council's Books of Hope program.

RECOMMENDATION: Should be approved

VOTE: Unanimous, 5 - 0 in favor

188245: Communication from Mayor - Requesting acceptance of a \$4,900 grant from

the Mass. Cultural Council, for the Arts Council's operational costs.

RECOMMENDATION: Should be approved

VOTE: Unanimous, 5 - 0 in favor

188308: Communication from Mayor - Requesting approval of an Order approving the acquisition by permanent easement of land needed for the public infrastructure improvements to be financed by the first I-Cubed Bond Issue.

RECOMMENDATION: Should be approved

VOTE: Unanimous, 5 - 0 in favor

188311: Communication from Mayor - Conveying a draft Infrastructure Development Assistance Agreement in conjunction with the I-Cubed Assembly on the Mystic Project.

RECOMMENDATION: Should be placed on file

VOTE: Unanimous, 5 - 0 in favor

188312: Communication from Mayor - Requesting an appropriation of, and authorization to borrow, \$625,000, in a bond for the purchase of a Fire Dept. Rescue Truck.

RECOMMENDATION: Should be approved

VOTE: Unanimous, 5 - 0 in favor

188316: Communication from Mayor - Requesting an appropriation of \$89,990 from the Capital Projects Stabilization Fund to use as the local match for the I-93 Interchange Study federal earmark.

RECOMMENDATION: Should be approved

VOTE: Unanimous, 5 - 0 in favor

188317: Communication from Mayor - Requesting an appropriation of \$71,895 from the Capital Projects Stabilization Fund to purchase 3 Toyota Prius hybrid vehicles for the Fire Dept.

RECOMMENDATION: Should be approved

VOTE: Unanimous, 5 - 0 in favor

188318: Communication from Mayor - Requesting an appropriation of \$65,000 from the Capital Projects Stabilization Fund to fund a study of streetscape infrastructure in Davis Sq.

RECOMMENDATION: Should be approved

VOTE: Unanimous, 5 - 0 in favor

188319: Communication from Mayor - Requesting an appropriation of \$44,800 from the Capital Projects Stabilization Fund to purchase Fire Suppression Command

Vehicle for the fire Dept.

RECOMMENDATION: Should be approved

VOTE: Unanimous, 5 - 0 in favor

188320: Communication from Mayor - Requesting an appropriation of \$36,641 from the Capital Projects Stabilization Fund to purchase a Fire Command Vehicle for the Fire Dept.

RECOMMENDATION: Should be approved

VOTE: Unanimous, 5 - 0 in favor

188324: Communication from Mayor - Requesting the transfer of \$78,000 from the E911 Salaries Acct. to the Police Salaries Acct., to compensate for cutbacks in State funding.

RECOMMENDATION: Should be approved

VOTE: Unanimous, 5 - 0 in favor

188326: Communication from Mayor - Requesting approval to expend a grant of \$44,532.54 from the State's Emergency Preparedness PHER III grant, for the Health Dept. to implement H1N1 vaccine clinics.

RECOMMENDATION: Should be approved

VOTE: Unanimous, 5 - 0 in favor

188328: Communication from Mayor - Requesting approval to expend a grant of \$8,500 from Honeywell Corp. to support the city's All America City designation.

RECOMMENDATION: Should be approved

VOTE: Unanimous, 5 - 0 in favor

188329: Communication from Mayor - Requesting approval to expend a grant of \$4,000 from the Health Resources in Action's 84 Movement for research by youth on the retail advertising of tobacco products.

RECOMMENDATION: Should be approved

VOTE: Unanimous, 5 - 0 in favor

188332: Communication from Mayor - Requesting authorization for the School Superintendent to apply to the MA School Building Authority for assistance with the renovation or upgrade of the High School.

RECOMMENDATION: Should be approved

VOTE: Unanimous, 5 - 0 in favor

188333: Communication from Mayor - Requesting authorization for the School Superintendent to apply to the MA School Building Authority for assistance with the renovation or upgrade of the Winter Hill Community School.

RECOMMENDATION: Should be approved

VOTE: Unanimous, 5 - 0 in favor

188334: Communication from Mayor - Requesting authorization for the School Superintendent to apply to the MA School Building Authority for assistance with the renovation or upgrade of the Brown School.

RECOMMENDATION: Should be approved

VOTE: Unanimous, 5 - 0 in favor

188350: Communication from Mayor - Requesting approval of revised temporary construction easements, revised permanent easements, a revised side letter agreement on easement rescission rights, and an Order of Taking to clear title on a small parcel that was formerly part of Tenney Court and will be part of Assembly Sq. Dr.

RECOMMENDATION: Should be approved

VOTE: Unanimous, 5 - 0 in favor

Alderman Maryann Heuston, Chairman
Committee on Finance